

Should we tithe on the gross or the net?



The Bible says we should put God First.

 Proverbs 3:9 – Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.

 Matthew 6:33 – Seek first the kingdom of God... **Question #2** When will we reorganize our church to put more money and emphasis on the local church?



The church doesn't have to be reorganized to provide more locally.

- God pays for the pastoral salaries with His tithe which comes from the storehouse.
- People provide for the local needs with their offerings of gratitude and praise.
- Offerings are discretionary on the part of members.

Where is the "storehouse" today?



For Adventists the storehouse is the conference office.



Using the Biblical model – the storehouse is the place from which the pastors are paid. (Mal. 3:10; Numbers 18:21)



For Adventists the storehouse is the conference office.

For the convenience of the members and so they can worship God with their tithes and offerings, the funds are received at the local church. The tithe is then sent on to the Conference (the storehouse) so the pastors can be paid.

Can't I just send my tithe where I feel that it will do the most good?



No. The tithe is non-discretionary!

- The tithe is the Lord's. He has told us what to do with it. "Bring the tithe to the storehouse..."
 Mal. 3:10.
- Moses outlined the law of the central storehouse in Deut. 12: 1-28. "But you shall seek the place where your Lord chooses...and there you shall go...There you shall take...your tithes."
- Other good projects should be supported, but not from the tithe. 9T 249,250

Question #5
Does the Bible indicate a percentage for offerings?



No. There is no limitation on offerings.

Offerings are given:

According to how God has prospered –

Deut. 16:17.

- Cheerfully 2 Cor. 2:9.
- Willingly –Ex. 35:5



Question #6
Why is financial stewardship so important to God?



"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matt 6:21

- "You cannot serve God and Money."
 Matt. 6:24
- "Remember Lot's wife." Luke 17:32
 She looked back at Sodom because:
 - Her heart was still there.
 - Her children were still there.
 - Her possessions were still there.
 - There is no person or any thing worth trading for eternal life.

What are the constituent elements of an honest tithe?



An Honest Tithe – 3 Elements

Percent or Portion – one tenth (10%)
 Gen 14:20; 28:22

2. <u>Place</u> to return it – God's storehouse Mal 3:10; Ps. 116:14,18,19

3. <u>Purpose</u> – the support of gospel workers Numbers 18:21; 1 Cor 9:14

Question #8 How can we store

How can we store up treasures in heaven?



By helping others and supporting God's work.

 Rich Young Ruler – Help the poor and you will have treasures in heaven. Mt. 19:16-22; Mk. 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23

By helping others and supporting God's work.

• Every opportunity to help a brother in need, or to aid the cause of God in the spread of the truth, is a pearl that you can send beforehand and deposit in the bank of heaven for safekeeping... Every such opportunity improved adds to your heavenly treasure. 3T 249

Aren't some people just too poor to tithe?



Not according to the Bible!

 The Bible indicates that if we have an income we should respond with our tithe and offerings.
 Prov. 3:9

- The devil wants to keep people in poverty and ignorance – God wants to bless them.
- Some pastors feel that they just can't teach tithing because there are single parents in their churches who can't afford to tithe. (See 1 Kings 17:9-16)

Question #10
Isn't emphasis on tithe and offerings kind of legalistic?



Obedience is not legalism. "Obedience – the service and allegiance of love – is the true sign of discipleship." SC 60

- "If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land." (Isaiah 1:19)
- "But why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things which I say?" (Lk 6:46)

Obedience is not legalism.

Those who hear and obey – wise builders.

- Those who hear and don't obey –foolish builders. (Mt 7:21-27; Lk 6:46-49)
- "To obey is better than sacrifice..." (1Sam 15:22)

Question #11 Does God want us to be rich?



God wants us to prosper, to have our needs met, and to have a surplus.

• But we shouldn't desire to be rich. 1Tim 6:9

• We shouldn't get involved with "get rich quick" schemes. Prov. 28:20, 22

• "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it." Prov.10:22; 30:8,9

God wants us to prosper, to have our needs met, and to have a surplus.

- A good name better than riches. Prov. 22:1
- Hard for rich men to enter heaven. Mk 10:23-25
- Don't store up treasures on earth. Mt 6:19,20

Question #12

Is the offering a part of worship?



YES, offerings are part of our praise to God.

No order of service in Bible or SOP

- But frequently 4 elements are present in worship:
 - 1. Music/singing
 - 2. Prayer/praise
 - 3. Bible study/preaching
 - 4. Tithes and offerings.

YES, offerings are part of our praise to God.

- "They shall not appear before the Lord emptyhanded." Deut 16:16
- Bring your tithes and offerings Mal 3:10
- "I will pay my vows in the presence of all His people. Ps.116:18,19

What blessings are promised for financial faithfulness?



Blessings will come on you and overtake you. Deut. 28:1-14

- Whatever he [righteous man] does shall prosper.
 Ps. 1:3
- The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain in its season, and to bless all the work or your hand. You shall lend but not borrow. Deut. 28:12

Blessings will come on you and overtake you. Deut. 28:1-14

 "I will open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes." Mal. 3:10,11

Why did Jesus tell so many stories about money and possessions?



He knew money would be a major factor in our spiritual lives.

- "You cannot serve God and money. Matt. 6:24
- Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt. 6:21

He knew money would be a major factor in our spiritual lives.

- "The love of money, the desire for wealth, is the golden chain that binds them [men] to Satan."
 SC 44
- Jesus told these money stories so we would remember the principles.

Question #15
Why is it so
important that we
recognize God's
ownership of
everything?



So we would put our possessions in their proper perspective.

- God own everything (Ps. 24:1; 50:12; 1 Chron.
 29:13,14) which makes us managers or stewards.
- As managers we must handle what He entrusts to us in harmony with His instructions and with the perspective of bringing profit to His kingdom.
- If we manage well here, He will give us more responsibility in His kingdom. Matt. 25:21

Question #16
Didn't Ellen White give some of her tithe to independent ministries?



No, she did not.

Two incidents cause some to question her use of tithe:

1. The work of Edson White in the South.

Ellen White in Australia 1890-1900

Edson and the Morning Star in Vicksburg

The Watson letter.

- 2. The building of Madison College and documents in the Spaulding/Magan Collection
 - Not all "means" needs to go through the regular channels.
 - Money for buildings is not to come from the tithe. 1MR 188

Question #17
What
stewardship
question will
Jesus ask us in
the judgment?



Where were you when I needed help? Matthew 25:31-46

Apparently, our treatment of the poor, more than anything else, will determine our eternal destiny.



Where were you when I needed help? Matthew 25:31-46

"When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering."

DA 637 (See DA chap. 70)

Not a theological question but a practical one.

Question #18

What did the rich young ruler exchange for eternity?



He traded his short lifetime for ALL of eternity.

He sacrificed God's blessing now, and in the age to come, eternal life.

Mark 10:30

"The very means that is now so sparingly invested in the cause of God, and that is selfishly retained, will in a little while be cast with all idols to the moles and to the bats. Money will soon depreciate in value very suddenly when the reality of eternal scenes opens to the senses of man."

~Evangelism, p. 63

Question #19
Why did Jesus
say, "Remember
Lot's wife?"
(Luke 17:32)



She cherished earthly possessions and lost eternal life. (RH Dec. 11, 1900 [2SM 354]) "A pillar of salt forever"

- She looked back because her heart, her possessions, and her children were still in Sodom. (PP161)
- When we remember Lot's wife, we must remember that no person or any thing is worth trading for eternal life.

Question #20

What is the reward of the faithful steward?



An Eternal Reward

- "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things." Matt. 25:21
- "He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:6
- "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." Rev. 2:10

"In giving to the work of God, you are laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven. All that you lay up is secure from disaster and loss, and is increasing to an eternal, an enduring substance."

"As Christ's followers give back to the Lord His own, they are accumulating treasure which will be theirs when they hear the words: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

~Testimonies for the Church, Vol.9, p. 59

"Those who go forth as ministers have a solemn responsibility devolving upon them which is strangely neglected... There is great need of instruction concerning the obligations and duties to God, especially in regard to paying an honest tithe."

"Our ministers would feel sadly aggrieved if they were not promptly paid for their labor; but will they consider that there must be meat in the treasure house of God wherewith to sustain laborers?...

...If they fail to do their whole duty in educating the people to be faithful...there will be a shortage of means...to carry forward the Lord's work."

"It is part of the minister's work to teach those who accept the truth through his efforts, to bring the tithe to the storehouse, as an acknowledgement of their dependence upon God....

...The new converts should be fully enlightened as to their duty to return to the Lord His own. The command to pay tithe is so plain that there is no semblance of excuse for disregarding it."

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"If (pastors) fail to set before the church the importance of returning to God His own, if they do not see to it that the officers under them are faithful, and that the tithe is brought in, they are in peril....

...They are neglecting a matter which involves a blessing or a curse to the church. They should be relieved of their responsibility."

When (ministers) neglect to teach the people their obligation to God in tithes and offerings, they neglect one important part of the work which their Master has left them to do, and 'Unfaithful servant' is written against their names in the books of heaven." (5T 256)